

## Site Activities Update

### Devil's Swamp Lake Site

East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

May 2015

#### This Fact Sheet will tell you about...

- **SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION**
- **CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (COC)**
- **SUPERFUND PROCESS, REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS)**
- **RI/FS PROGRESS**
- **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**
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#### SITE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

Devil's Swamp Lake is a man-made, crescent-shaped lake located on the Mississippi River east bank floodplain, approximately ten miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. (Shown on the Site vicinity map included as Figure 1-1). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers excavated the lake in 1973 and 1974 to provide material for levee construction along the north and west sides of the Port of Greater Baton Rouge Terminal (Baton Rouge Barge Harbor).

#### CONTAMINANTS OF CONCERN (COC)

The Devil's Swamp Lake Site (the Site) consists of contaminated sediments within the Lake, and a portion of Devil's Swamp adjoining the Lake and associated wetlands.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) have been identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the primary COCs in the sediment and in aquatic receptors in Devil's Swamp Lake. In March 2004, the EPA identified the commercial hazardous waste disposal facility formerly operated by Rollins as the apparent source of the Devil's Swamp Lake PCB impact.

#### SUPERFUND PROCESS, REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION/FEASIBILITY STUDY (RI/FS)

The Site was proposed to be placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) on March 8, 2004. The EPA issued an order to the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to characterize the nature and extent of risks at the Site.

The Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for the Site was issued on December 3, 2009. The UAO was issued to Baton Rouge Disposal, LLC, by the EPA Region 6 and became effective on December 18, 2009. This UAO orders the PRP to plan and execute the RI/FS under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), with EPA's oversight.

The RI/FS process represents the methodology for characterization of the nature and extent of risks posed by potential constituents at a Site and for evaluation of potential remedial options. Nine criteria are used in the RI/FS process during the evaluation of remedial alternatives. These criteria include:

1. Overall protection of human health and the environment;
2. Compliance with Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs);
3. Long-term effectiveness and permanence;
4. Reduction of toxicity, mobility, or volume through treatment;
5. Short-term effectiveness;
6. Implementability;
7. Cost;
8. State acceptance;
9. Community acceptance.

The purpose of a RI Report is to describe the methods, sample collection procedures, and data analysis techniques used to conduct a RI. The RI for the Site is being conducted in a tiered approach consisting of two tiers, Tier 1 and Tier 2. The outline of the tiered approach follows:

**Tier 1:**

- Initial characterization of the nature and extent of PCBs at the Site
- Determine if a Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) is required by identification of COCs and comparison of concentrations of the constituents at the Site with applicable screening criteria
- Conduct an initial ecological effects evaluation through a Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA)

**Tier 2:**

The Tier 2 RI supplements the Tier 1 RI results with additional data and completion of a more thorough evaluation of the pathways and receptors identified as potentially at risk. The Tier 2 RI may include more than one phase of field investigation. The Tier 2 RI includes:

- Additional characterization of the nature and extent of PCBs at the Site
- Completion of the Baseline HHRA
- Refinement of the understanding of ecological effects through an Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment (BERA)

(Superfund Process Figure 1.2)

**RI/FS PROGRESS**

A Final Preliminary Site Characterization Report was submitted on May 21, 2010.

A Final Phase 1 or Tier 1 RI Work Plan was submitted on November 24, 2010. The Tier 1 RI sample collection activities were completed during the weeks of January 17, 2011, and January 24, 2011.

The Final Tier 1 RI Report was submitted on February 10, 2012.

A Final Tier 2 RI Work Plan was submitted on June 25, 2012.

The Tier 2 RI sediment, soil, and fish tissue sample collection activities were initiated in July 2012, and crawfish sample collection was not successful due to the Site conditions encountered at that time.

Clean Harbors continued to monitor Site conditions, including Mississippi River water elevation, temperature and duration of inundation, to evaluate potential suitability for crawfish sample collection. Due to the high proportion of crawfish collected outside of the assessment area in 2013, additional crawfish and sediment were re-sampled in May-June 2014. Crawfish were collected in the North Devil's Swamp Lake Area of Interest (AOI).

The Analytical Data Assessment and Validation Report for the 2014 additional crawfish sample collection was submitted to the EPA on August 27, 2014.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

The Tier 2 RI Report will be completed during the summer of 2015. This document includes the results of water, sediment, fish and crawfish samples collected. It also presents an analysis of what risks the contaminants of concern present to people (human health risk assessment) and the environment (ecological risks), as represented by birds, fish, crawfish and small animals such as raccoons or minks.

The EPA will use this information to establish what future action will be required at the Site

The State, represented by the Louisiana Department of the Environment Quality (LDEQ), in coordination with the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, will conduct a reassessment of the current fish consumption advisory to identify if any new changes are appropriate.

If future EPA actions are required, several response alternatives will be developed, evaluated as previously indicated, and presented to the public in a Proposed Plan.

EPA will respond to comments prior to making any final decision.

#### WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

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##### **Site Repository**

Scotlandville Branch Library  
7373 Scenic Hwy  
Baton Rouge, LA 70807

**All inquiries from the media should be directed to: EPA Region 6 Press Office at 214.665.2200.**

**For additional information, please consult the EPA Region 6 website:**  
<http://www.epa.gov/region6/6sf/6sf-la.htm>.

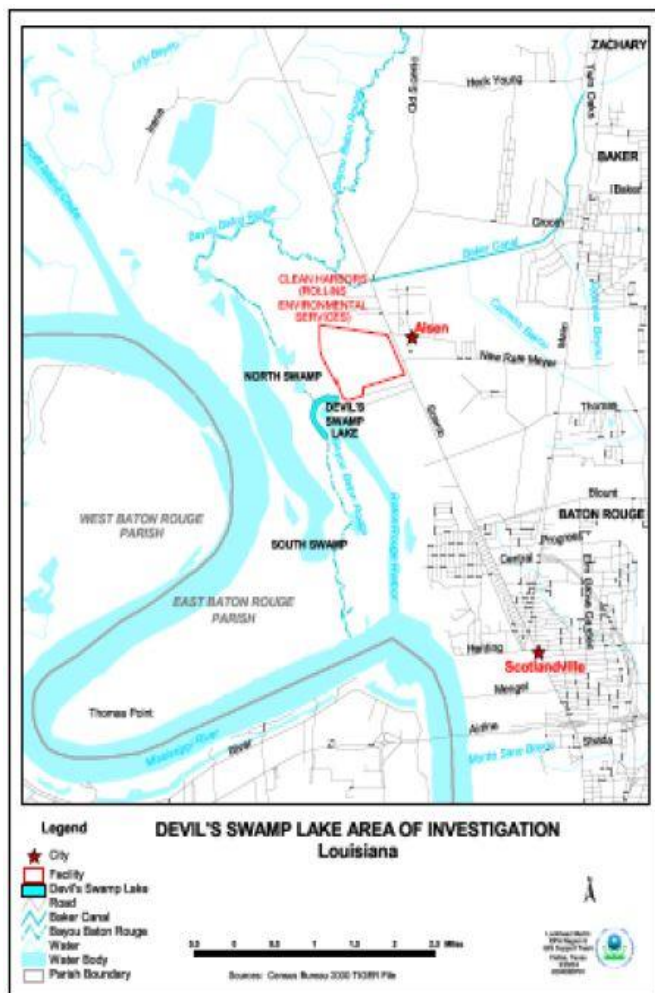


Figure 1.1

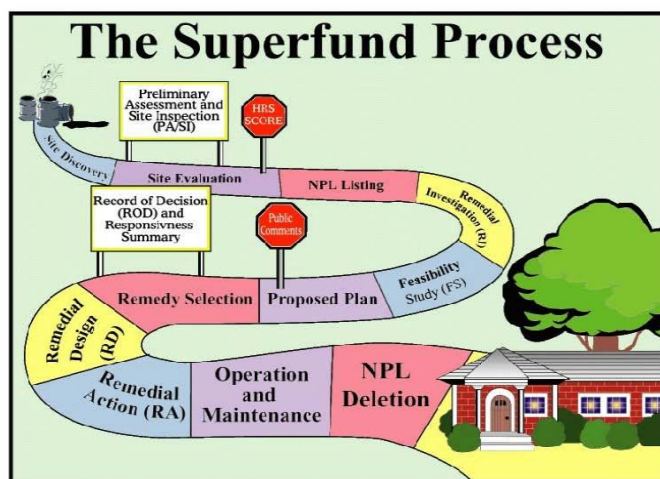


Figure 1.2



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